

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 IO-14 SAM-01 AID-20 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 SCCT-02 /155 W

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P 230827Z AUG 74

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6029

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1618

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, IS, JO

SUBJ: ARCHBISHOP CAPUCCI REPORTEDLY ADMITS GUILT

REF: JERUSALEM 1615

1. SUMMARY. ACCORDING TO APOSTOLIC DELEGATE'S OFFICE, ARCH-BISHOP CAPUCCI HAS ADMITTED AIDING TERRORISTS BUT JUSTIFIES ACTION AS ONLY COURSE LEFT TO PALESTINIANS. DECISION ON TRIAL OR EXPULSION EXPECTED WITHIN DAY OR TWO. END SUMMARY.

2. SECRETARY TO APOSTOLIC DELEGATE CAREW, MSGR. PIETRO SAMBI, TOLD ME CONFIDENTIALLY AUG 23 THAT ARCHBISHOP CAPUCCI HAS SIGNED STATEMENT ADMITTING RESPONSIBILITY FOR SMUGGLING ARMS FOR TERRORISTS. SAMBI AND CAREW HAVE SEEN STATEMENT, WHICH SAYS ACTION TAKEN UNDER PRESSURE FROM PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATION. CAPUCCI HOWEVER, TOLD ATTORNEY SHEHADEH THIS POINT INCLUDED AT INSISTENCE OF ISRAELIES AND THAT HE ACTED WILLINGLY.

3. ATTORNEY SHEHADEH CONFERRED PRIVATELY WITH CAPUCCI AUG 22, ACCORDING TO SAMBI. DURING THIS MEETING CAPUCCI TOLD ATTORNEY HE HAD SIGNED STATEMENT VOLUNTARILY, NOT UNDER DURESS, AND THAT HE CONSIDERED HIS ACTIONS JUSTIFIED AS ONLY MEANS LEFT TO ARABS TO
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FIGHT ISRAELIS FOR WHAT THEY HAVE DONE TO PALESTINIANS. IF

BROUGHT TO TRIAL HE SAID HE WOULD STATE ALL THIS IN COURT. HE WILL NOT PLEAD GUILTY TO CHARGES, HOWEVER, AS HE CONSIDERS ACTIONS JUSTIFIED.

4. SAMBI SAID WHILE IT APPEARS MOST LIKELY ISRAELIS INTEND BRING CASE TO TRIAL, THERE IS STILL POSSIBILITY OF EXPULSION WITHOUT TRIAL, PROCEDURE HE AND CAREW BELIEVE PREFERABLE FROM ALL POINTS OF VIEW. HE EXPECTED DECISION IN NEXT DAY OR TWO.

5. CAPUCCI, ACCORDING TO SAMBI, APPARENTLY HAS NOT BEEN ILL-TREATED ALTHOUGH HE HAS COMPLAINED TO CAREW AND TO DELEGATION FROM BEIRUT SYNOD, IN POLICE PRESENCE, OF CONDITIONS WHERE HE IS BEING HELD AND REQUESTED TRANSFER TO MORE SUITABLE PLACE. SAMBI SAYS BEIT SHEMESH LOCATION IS MORE LIKE POLICE STATION THAN REGULAR PRISON AND CONDITIONS FAIRLY PRIMITIVE. BEIRUT DELEGATION WANTED TO ISSUE STATEMENT ON THIS POINT CAREW PERSUADED THEM TO MAKE NO STATEMENT UNTIL DECISION MADE ON TRIAL OR EXPLUSION.

6. SAMBI ALSO EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE TERRORIST ACTION IN CONNECTION WITH CASE, SINCE REPORTS ARE CIRCULATING THAT SUCH ACTION PLANNED.

7. COMMENT: SAMBI CLEARLY DISTURBED OVER SITUATION AND NOTED, WHILE UNDERSTANDING ARAB FEELINGS, BOTH HE AND CAREW OBVIOUSLY DISAPPROVE OF CAPUCCI'S ACTION OF SELF-JUSTIFICATION. SITUATION WHEN IT BECOMES PUBLIC WILL PLACE CHRISTIAN CHURCHES HERE IN UNENVIABLE POSITION; SINCE NO COMMENT LIKELY TO BE SATISFACTORY TO BOTH SIDES. CASE COULD, OF COURSE, HAVE SIGNIFICANT EFFECT ON ISRAELI ATTITUDE TOWARD POSITION OF CHRISTIAN CHURCHES HERE IN FUTURE.
JONES

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